AVENGERS BEYOND

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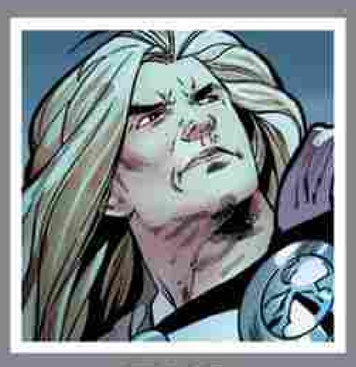
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat--on that day, the Avengers were born! When the cosmic being known as the Beyonder once again threatens all of reality, the Avengers must become something even greater--they must become…

AVENGERS BEYOND

CAPTAIN AMERICA



THOR

IRON MAN

CAPTAIN MARVEL

BLACK PANTHER

SHE-HULK

An immensely powerful being called the Lost One broke free from imprisonment and has been hunting his enemies, including the Beyonder. The Beyonder fled to Earth and covertly provided the Avengers with the tools they'll need to defeat the Lost One, including the materials for a planetary shield powered by alien crystals.

The Avengers managed to activate the shield while also battling the Lost One's emissaries, Tiamok and the Black Order. When the shield briefly lapsed, the Lost One was able to materialize on Earth and join the battle. But after the shield was then reactivated, the Avengers realized that they had been betrayed--trapped with the Lost One on Earth while the Beyonder remains safely in orbit.

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OH GOD, NO.

IT'S THE BOOTLEG AVENGERS.

STOP CALLING US THAT.

YOU HAVE FAILED THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET. YOU HAVE ALLOWED A COSMIC SQUABBLE TO ENCROACH UPON OUR LANDS.

YOU HAVE ALLOWED THIS WORLD TO BE COCOONED IN AN ENERGY SHIELD OF YOUR OWN DEVISING.

THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, AND YET THOU REFUSETH TO LEARN FROM THINE OWN MISTAKES.

THOU ART EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES NO LONGER.

WE'VE BEATEN YOU, AND NOW WE'RE TAKING YOUR STUFF.

YOU DIDN'T BEAT US. YOU ONLY REMEMBER IT THAT WAY.

AN ALIEN NAMED **SEL SENNAN** INFECTED NEW YORK NOT TOO LONG AGO. SHE GAVE EVERYONE POWERS.

YOU WERE HER NEIGHBORS. YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON AND, WHEN EVERYTHING WAS BACK TO NORMAL, YOU MADE HER DO IT AGAIN.

BUT ONLY TO THE SIX OF YOU.

I LOVE THIS.

THE ARGUING. THE BACK-AND-FORTH. THE BANTER.

THE RAT-A-TAT-TAT OF RAPID-FIRE WORDS, FIRED LIKE SHARDS OF SCALPEL-SHARP WIT AND ERUDITE WISDOM.

STEPPING BACK LIKE THIS, WATCHING IT FROM AFAR, IT JUST MAKES ME APPRECIATE THE LITTLE THINGS ALL THE MORE--

--WHILE ALSO MAKING ME WISH I COULD BE DOWN THERE WITH THEM.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO STOP SUBMERGING MYSELF IN THE BACKGROUND OF THESE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

I'M SAFE OUT HERE BEYOND THE SHIELD. I NEED HIDE NO LONGER.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE THEM SOON.

EARTH WILL DIE, AND THE UNIVERSE WILL FORGET ITS HEROES.

BUT I WON'T FORGET.

I'LL CARRY THEIR STORIES WITH ME WHEREVER I GO. THEIR NAMES WILL LIVE ON.

I'M GOING TO MISS THEM ALL SO MUCH.

BUT THAT'S WHAT I'M *TALKING* ABOUT!

WE SAW AN *OPPORTUNITY*. WE MADE HER GIVE US YOUR POWERS SO WE COULD TAKE OVER. SO WE COULD DO THE JOB *RIGHT*.

THAT'S THE *NEW* IRON MAN. THAT'S THE *NEW* THOR.

AND I'M THE *NEW* CAPTAIN %#$%@# AMERICA!

I WANTED TO BE THOR.

BUT IF THOU WERE THOR, I WOULD'VE HAD TO BE BLACK PANTHER--

--AND I WAS NOT COOL WITH APPROPRIATING *WAKANDAN CULTURE*, NOT EVEN TO SAVETH THE WORLD.

BUT I'M NOT WAKANDAN.

THOU ART MORE WAKANDAN THAN ME.

DUDE, THAT'S SO RACIST.

WOULD YOU TWO SHUT THE #$@% UP?

WE'RE THE *AVENGERS!* THE *NEW* AVENGERS! THE *REAL* AVENG--

UGH!!!

NO, SON, YOU'RE *NOT*.

THE REAL AVENGERS JUST GOT BACK.

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

OH MY GOD!

I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS!

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO SPACE YET, SO WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

WHEN YOUR HEAD GOES ON FIRE--IS THAT GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?

WHERE DO I GET MY COSTUMES?

OH DEAR LORD.

THAT IS AN INTERESTING SUIT.

I KNOW. I MADE IT FROM STUFF LYING AROUND THE HOUSE AND IT'S STILL MILES BETTER THAN YOURS.

OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T BEEN AT THIS SUPER HERO THING LONG--BUT I'D SAY YOU'RE NEW TO THE WHOLE GENIUS THING TOO, RIGHT?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GENIUS, EVEN WHEN THEY TOLD ME I WASN'T!

BUT NOW THAT I'M JUST AS SMART AS YOU, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO DENY ME EVER AGAIN!

THIS IS MY TIME! MINE!

WOW.

ALL OF THE ARROGANCE, NONE OF THE SELF-LOATHING.

YOU REALLY ARE $€@% IRON MAN, AREN'T YOU?

HAVE AT THEE, KNAVE!

VERILY, LET THE THUNDER OF OUR BLOWS SHAKE THE VERY HALLS OF VALHALLA!

I SAY THEE *YIELD!*

IS THAT--?

IS THAT REALLY HOW PEOPLE THINK I SOUND?

I AM THE NEW *GOD OF THUNDER!* I AM THE NEW *ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD!* VERILY, THAT HAMMER BELONGS TO *ME!*

IF THAT IS SO, GOD OF THUNDER, THEN--

--VERILY--

--TAKE IT.

I LOVE BEING A HULK!

YOU DIDN'T ADMIT DEFEAT LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, BUT TODAY, EVERYONE WILL SEE THAT *I'M* THE BEST CAP!

WE'VE NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE. YOU JUST *THINK* WE HAVE.

STOP SAYING THAT!

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN *MEAN*?!

REALITY HAS BEEN DISTORTED.

THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS ARE PART OF A NARRATIVE IMPOSED UPON US BY A BEING CALLED THE *BEYONDER*.

WHAT A CROCK OF $&#@!

WE'VE BEATEN YOU BEFORE, AND THIS TIME, YOU WON'T ESCAPE!

YOU'VE GOT OUR POWERS AND OUR ABILITIES, BUT SEL SENNAN COULDN'T GIVE YOU OUR SKILLS, COULD SHE?

SHE COULDN'T GIVE YOU OUR *EXPERIENCE*.

I'M SORRY.

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO BE HERE.

YOU NEED TO TAKE US TO WHERE YOU'RE KEEPING SEL SENNAN. SHE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN YOU TO NORMAL.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT MAD?

NONE OF THIS IS YOUR IDEA.

ONE LAST LESSON HE DECIDED WE OUGHT TO LEARN.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE BEYONDER'S FINAL MANIPULATION BEFORE HE CLOSED OFF THE SHIELD AROUND THE PLANET.

YEAH-- WE'VE GOT ONE OF THEM TOO.

WHAT?

THERE WERE SEVEN OF US, AND RICARDO DIDN'T WANT TO BE AN AVENGER.

HE ASKED SALLY--SORRY-- ***SEL SENNAN*** IF SHE COULD DETECT ANY OTHER SUPER HERO CLOSE BY, AND SHE FOUND THAT GUY, THE ***BEYONDER*** GUY.

RICARDO SAID, "YEAH, OKAY, I'LL HAVE ***HIS*** POWER."

WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THAT--

I AM YONDER.

I ONCE WAS A MORTAL MAN WITH MORTAL DESIRES AND MORTAL LIMITATIONS. I AM THAT BEING NO LONGER.

NOW I AM A *GOD*, AND THE COSMOS IS MY *PLAYTHING*.

SEL SENNAN WAS ABLE TO GIVE YOU *THE BEYONDER'S* POWERS?

SERIOUSLY?

MMF.

WELL, SHE DID WHAT SHE *COULD*, BUT EVEN A *SLIVER* OF INFINITY IS STILL INFINITY.

IT IS ENOUGH.

HEY. QUESTION.

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TAKING PHYSICAL FORM SINCE YOU GOT THIS POWER?

BECAUSE IF IT IS, YOU MAY WANT TO RETHINK THAT.

AH YES, YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT THIS ***ENTITY*** I CAN FEEL APPROACHING.

MY POWERS ARE NEW TO ME, I ADMIT--

--BUT I AM ***CONFIDENT*** THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF LONG ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HIM THAT I POSE NO THREAT.

THE ***LOST ONE*** IS NOT AN ENTITY YOU CAN BARGAIN WITH.

HE IS FUELED BY HATRED AND ANGER AND VENGEANCE. HE IS SOMETHING BIGGER THAN A GOD.

IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO FLEE.

YOU FLEE.

YONDER AND THE ***REAL*** AVENGERS CHOOSE TO STAY AND ***FIGHT.***

AH. HE IS HERE.

OH, GREAT.

HERE HE COMES TO SPOIL THE FUN.

GREETINGS, MY FEARSOME FRIEND.

I AM *YONDER*, THE BOOTLEG BEYONDER. WHAT MANNER OF BEING MIGHT YOU BE?

CAL-HORRA IS MANY THINGS: A FIERCE WARRIOR, A BEAUTIFUL GOD, A CUNNING FOE.

BUT ONE THING HE IS NOT IS A GOOD TIME.

GURK!

I WAS ENJOYING THIS LITTLE DIVERSION WITH THE BOOTLEG AVENGERS. THEY MADE ME SMILE.

IT WAS A *WRY* SMILE, BUT THAT STILL COUNTS.

RIGHT NOW, THE LOST ONE IS REALIZING THAT THIS ISN'T *ME*, THAT THE POWER THAT *SMELLS* LIKE MINE *ISN'T* MINE.

HE DOESN'T APPEAR OVERLY PLEASED.

HE LOOKS QUITE *GRUMPY*, IN FACT.

CAL-HORRA--THAT *IS* YOUR NAME, ISN'T IT?

YOU WERE CREATED BY THE *CELESTIALS*, AND YOU WENT ON TO CREATE THE *BEYONDERS*.

BUT THE BEYONDERS MOVED AGAINST YOU AND STOLE YOUR POWER, ERASING YOU FROM HISTORY.

YOU'RE HERE TO START TAKING THAT POWER BACK--BUT THE BEYONDER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS GONE.

HE'S A TREACHEROUS COWARD--

HURTFUL.

--WHO TRAPPED YOU HERE. WITH US.

HUMANKIND IS NOT YOUR ENEMY. HURTING THEM WILL NOT BENEFIT YOU.

BUT IF YOU KILL OUR PEOPLE, WE *WILL* AVENGE THEM.

YOUR FIGHT ISN'T WITH US. THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU WANT.

YOU KNOW NOTHING OF WHAT I WANT.

OH. WOW.

OKAY, SO LOOKS LIKE THE JOURNEY FROM OUTSIDE THE OMNIVERSE TO EARTH HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL.

A *BEAUTIFUL GOD* NO LONGER, IT SEEMS.

NOW THOSE EYES ARE GLINTING WITH A MADNESS TO MATCH THEIR FURY.

GOOD THING I'M NOT DOWN THERE RIGHT NOW.

GOOD THING HE HASN'T NOTICED ME YET.

AH.

AH.

THIS IS AWKWARD.

YOU HAVE MY POWER.

I WANT IT BACK.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, CAL-HORRA, WAS A *GREAT INJUSTICE*, AND I WILL NOT TRY TO CLAIM OTHERWISE.

BUT IT WAS AN INJUSTICE OF WHICH I AM *INNOCENT.*

I HAD NO PART IN THE *REBELLION* AGAINST YOU. I HAD NO PART IN THE *VIOLENCE* INFLICTED UPON YOU. IT WAS NOT ME WHO TORE--

YOU HAVE MY POWER. I WANT IT BACK.

WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE *REASONABLE* ABOUT THIS...

WE ARE FROM *BEYOND.*

OH, LOOK WHO IT IS.

WE ARE HERE TO PASS JUDGMENT.

JUDGMENT? ON WHAT? ON WHO? ON *ME?*

I HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT NONE OF YOU WERE EVEN WILLING TO *ATTEMPT.*

THE LOST ONE ESCAPED HIS CONFINEMENT, AND WHILE THE REST OF YOU *SCATTERED* AND *FLED,* I LURED HIM INTO ANOTHER PRISON-- A *BETTER* PRISON.

A PRISON WHOSE WALLS ARE POWERED BY *FOUR OF OUR BRETHREN.*

"YOU ATTACKED THEM.

"YOU FIRST REDUCED THEM TO CRYSTALLINE FORMS IN AN ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEM FROM OUR SIGHT, AND NOW YOU KEEP THEM *PRISONER.*"

FOR THE GREATER GOOD. FOR *OUR* GREATER GOOD.

AND THEIR SACRIFICES HAVE BEEN NOTED.

I'M GOING TO KILL ALL OF YOU.

OH *HUSH*, YOU.

YOU'RE NOT HELPING.

YOU HAVE ACTED AGAINST YOUR OWN KIND.

DRASTIC STEPS NEEDED TO BE TAKEN, YES, BUT SURELY, YOU MUST AGREE THAT IT'S BEEN WORTH IT?

LOOK AT HIM! CAL-HORRA IS TRAPPED ON THIS PLANET AND SEALED AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSE.

UNLESS YOU WOULD RATHER I DISMANTLE THE SHIELD AND ALLOW HIM TO CONTINUE TO COME AFTER US...?

DO NOT BE FACETIOUS.

YOUR SHIELD IS NOT PERFECT.

IT WILL PREVENT ANYONE OR ANYTHING FROM LEAVING, BUT WITH ENOUGH POWER, IT CAN BE BREACHED FROM THE OUTSIDE.

IF A BEING WITH ENOUGH POWER WANTED TO JOIN THE LOST ONE AND ALL THOSE HUMANS ON THE SURFACE, YES, I SUPPOSE THEY COULD.

BUT WHY WOULD THEY ***WANT*** TO?

WANT HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH IT.

YOU HAVE DONE OUR PEOPLE A GREAT SERVICE. OUR RACE WILL CONTINUE BECAUSE OF YOUR ACTIONS.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

BUT YOU HAVE ATTACKED YOUR FELLOW BEYONDERS, CONDEMNING THEM TO AN ETERNITY OF LIVING DEATH.

YOU HAVE DECEIVED US. YOU CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

I DID WHAT I--

WE ARE TAKING YOUR POWER FROM YOU.

WE WILL LEAVE YOU WITH YOUR LIFE AND WITH YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS AND WITH YOUR SHELL OF BLOOD AND MEAT--

--BUT WE CANNOT PERMIT THESE GAMES YOU PLAY AMONG THE STARS.

WE CAST YOU DOWN, BEYONDER.

WHAT? NO.

AAAAA!

OH NO.

OH GOD, NO.

AVENGERS BEYOND #5

New York has fallen.

The Lost One steps over the broken bodies of heroes and villains alike in his search for the Beyonder, who cowers in the shadows without his powers. Outplayed and outmaneuvered, the Avengers have one last chance to snatch desperate victory from the jaws of unimaginable defeat...

Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

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